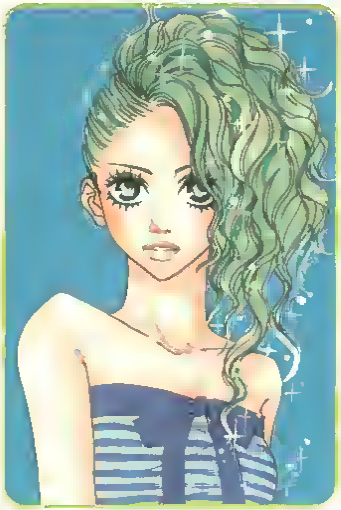

好評既刊コミックスもよろしく!

愛だろっ。
デンジャラス ガールズ
木曜日のバニラ
To BE… ①

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MARGARET COMICS
To BE…
1
桜山かずみ

3892◆
集英社

ISBN4-08-847892-4

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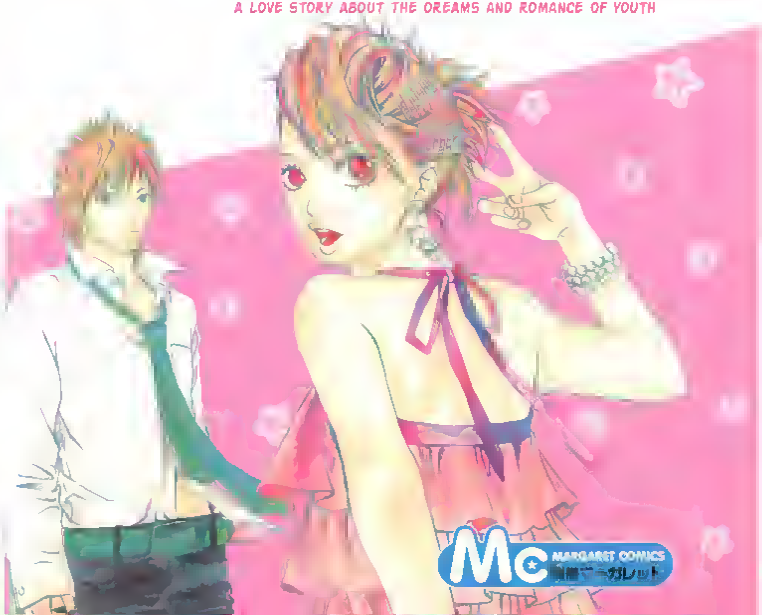
集英社
定価 本体390円＋税
雑誌 57238－92

●収録作品●
To BE－1

IN ORDER TO BECOME A BEAUTICIAN HIKARI TAKAYA MOVES TO TOKYO WITH HER HIGH-SCHOOL SWEETHEART. BUT LIFE AT BEAUTY SCHOOL IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT SHE EXPECTED!

A LOVE STORY ABOUT THE DREAMS AND ROMANCE OF YOUTH



MARGARET COMICS
マーガレット

マーガレット
MARGARET COMICS

To BE…

1

桜山かずみ

3892◆
集英社

Author's Comments

"I DREW A LOT OF MANNEQUINS IN THIS MANGA. MANNEQUINS HAVE MANY DIFFERENT FACES, JUST LIKE PEOPLE, SO IT WAS REALLY INTERESTING.

"INCIDENTALLY, IT SEEMS THE WIGS THAT ARE CUT SHORT FOR THE NATIONAL EXAM ARE REUSED AND CUT EVEN SHORTER AT BARBERING SCHOOLS. HMM… THAT MAKES SENSE."

(SAKURAYAMA KAZUMI)

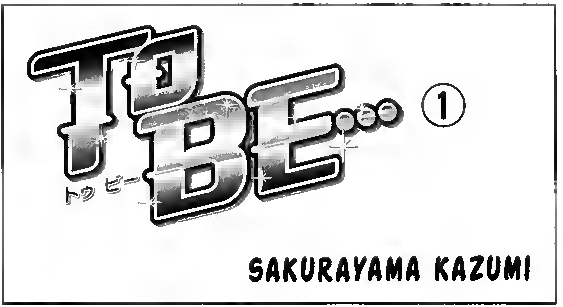
MARGARET COMICS

To BE…

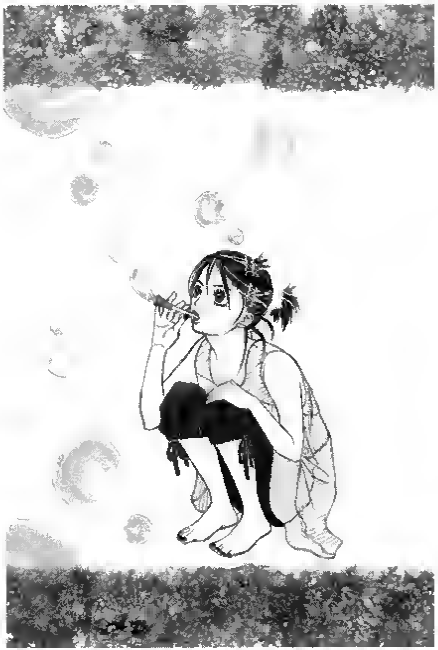
To BE…

1

MARGARET COMICS


TO BE...
トゥビー
①
SAKURAYAMA KAZUMI

TOBE
トウビー
①
桜山かずみ
さくらやま



My dream

I want to be a beautician like my mother

My mom makes lots of people beautiful with her hands.

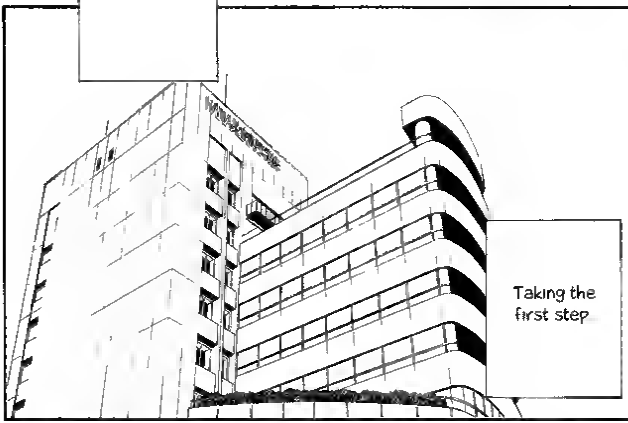
She's like a magician

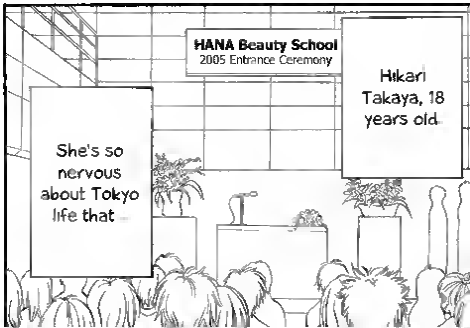
By Hikari Takaya
Class 4-2

I want to become a beautician.

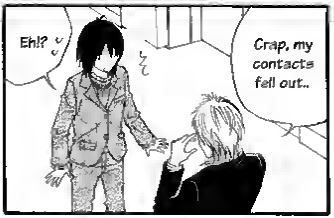
I want to be able to use that kind of magic.

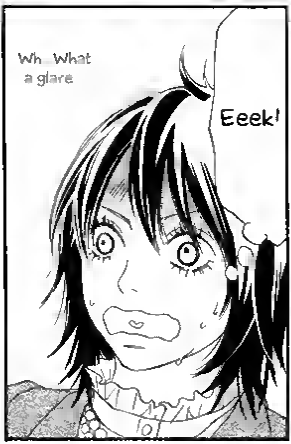
"My dream."





To BE… ①
Gotta go to the toilet.
Huh? The ceremony's about to start!
Ah, yeah. I'll be right back.
Ow ow ow! My stomach hurts!
This sucks...
Everyone's so dressed up.
And they're all so good-looking...
Wah!





■ This is a work of fiction, etc etc. Some of the classes and things that happen at the beauty school in this manga are different from those in the real world.

...Huh? Where are you going? That's the exit..
She said the ceremony's starting.
What should we do? There's no time to look for it.
As if I'd take part in that thing
What a waste of time.
They're all stupid anyway.
Beauticians..
.....
UGH
You-chan...

*In case it's not clear "You" is a name

Tokyo people are kinda scary...
And then he said beauticians were stupid.
So what's he doing in a beauty school anyway?
Ah...
But you know, You-chan.
Haa, I hope things work out at school...
I wonder what class he's in...
They look like they just stepped out of a fashion mag or something!
Tokyo ladies are so pretty!
They're so refined, they could even be on TV!

Ahh, I want to work hard and become like that too!
That's a beauty school for you!
Their hairstyles are so fancy!
Hnn...
.....
Ah... oh yeah.
How's prep school, You-chan? Made any friends yet?
Just trying to keep up is hell.
When I'm not sleeping, I'm studying non-stop.
I don't have the time for that

And you have classes from tomorrow, don't you?
Yeah...
I have an early day tomorrow
Well, it's about time I went back to the dorm.
I see.

Later.
.....

That was one week ago

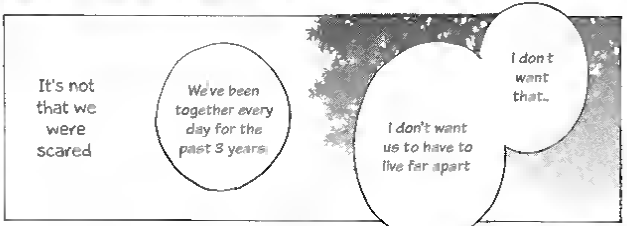
I came to Tokyo with You-chan

You-chan would go to university

And I would go to Beauty School

We promised each other long ago that we would go to school in Tokyo

I guess that means...
We'll have to break up?
...


It's not that we were scared
We've been together every day for the past 3 years
I don't want that...
I don't want us to have to live far apart

I've been thinking this over for a while...
I've decided

...

I'll go to prep school in Tokyo!
There's a dorm for prep school students near where you'll be staying.
I'll work hard for one year.
We won't be able to see each other every day like we can now, but...
Both I,
I don't want to be away from you either!
I want to keep our promise and go to Tokyo with you.
We were just worried
And You-chan too I'm sure
Let's do our best!

Together.

ダッシュ

phew
Made it!

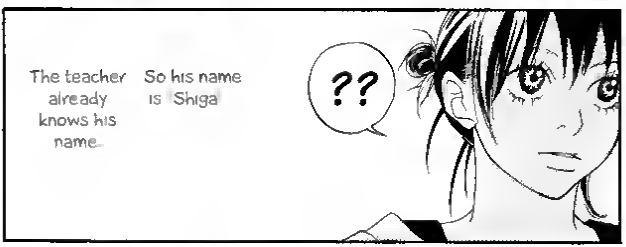
Let's see, my locker is...
Ah, this one.

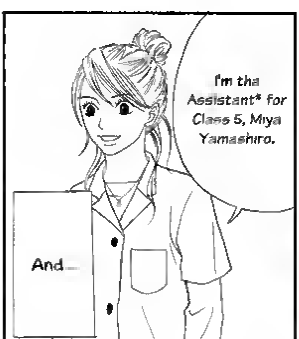
My first day and I'm going to be late!
I just can't figure out the subway

Huh?
Ow
Ow
Ow
ばっ
ガーン
Wah!
Did it hit you? I'm sorry!
あわわ！
I was in such a hurry I got careless!

Umm... Are you wearing those glasses because of what happened yesterday...?
Ah! From yesterday...
That scary guy
You again!
うかっ
ビクーッ
Tokyo guys really are scary...
mutter
I'm from Kanagawa, okay!?
Got a problem with that!?

Hey, you guys. We have morning assembly now.
N... nope! Not at all...
O... Okay...
Change into your white gowns...
And get inside now.
.....
Huh ..?
- Good morning.
Shiga-kun





*An assistant teacher

We're in the same class
Until the teacher gets here.
So please wait..
Ah_yeah
Right?
About the same age as us.
Whoa
That assistant teacher is kinda young, isn't she?
Too...too bright
His shirt's all frilly.
Uh... Hikari Takaya is my name.
Nice to meet you.
Hikari, eh?
This guy sure is fancy!
I'm Shinichi Jou
What's your name?

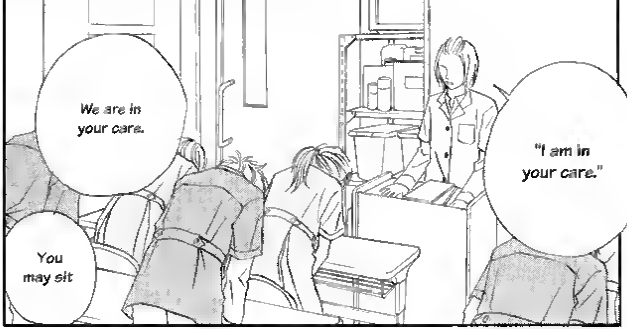
Eh!?
ガ
ミシ
……
カタカタ
よいしょっ
By the way, Hikari.
You were getting all chummy with this really cool guy in the hallway.
What's up with that? Is he a friend?
Or maybe a boyfriend!?
Which is it? Which is it?
Eh..no... It's not like that!
We only met for the first time yesterday..

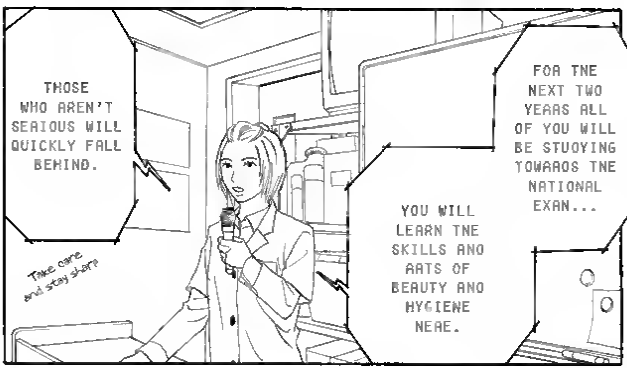
Wh...what's with this guy?
Ahst-a
Silly me!
Ohhhh, is that all!
I thought you guys were pals or something

He keeps touching me...

Phew, saved!
カ" ク
カ" 月
Rise!
Right, let's start this assembly

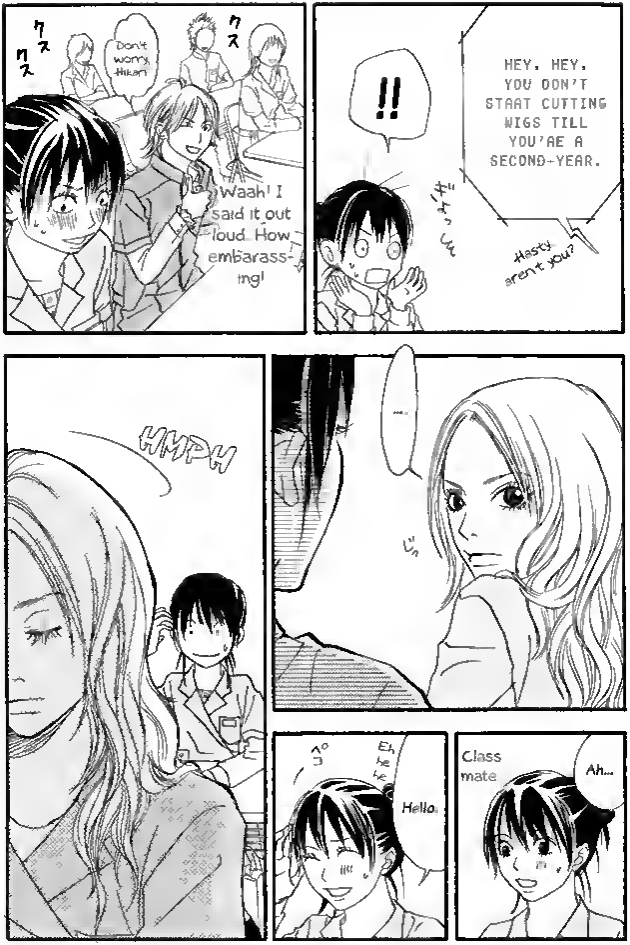
PLAYER


We are in your care.
"I am in your care."
You may sit


THOSE WHO AREN'T SERIOUS WILL QUICKLY FALL BEHIND.
Take care and stay sharp
YOU WILL LEARN THE SKILLS AND ARTS OF BEAUTY AND HYGIENE HERE.
FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS ALL OF YOU WILL BE STUDYING TOWARDS THE NATIONAL EXAM...

.....
Oh... I wanted to learn cutting...
BEGINNING WITH TOWEL-WRAPPING AND MASSAGING...
YOU WILL FIRST LEARN HOW TO "HANDLE" A CLIENT'S BODY.

*You can't start cutting wigs until you've mastered the use of scissors.



EEH!?
I'm sure she saw me. Meaning...
She blew me off!?
Why!?
You-chan...
Making friends in Tokyo...
I wanted to make friends in my class quickly, but...
It's been nothing but trouble.
Is going to be a long, hard battle
It's like they're all weirdos
Ah, right, right.
I told you about that scary guy yesterday, right?
...
Turns out he's in my class
I was totally shocked!

To BE··· ①

Sorry..
I'm interrupting your studies...
AH... NO... WELL.. IT'S OKAY.
...
...
...
REALLY ...
Tokyo skies are always cloudy. You can't see the stars..
The sky I watched with You-chan
I'm thinking back to Fukuoka's sky
And touch the stars.
I felt I could almost reach out
In that clear sky

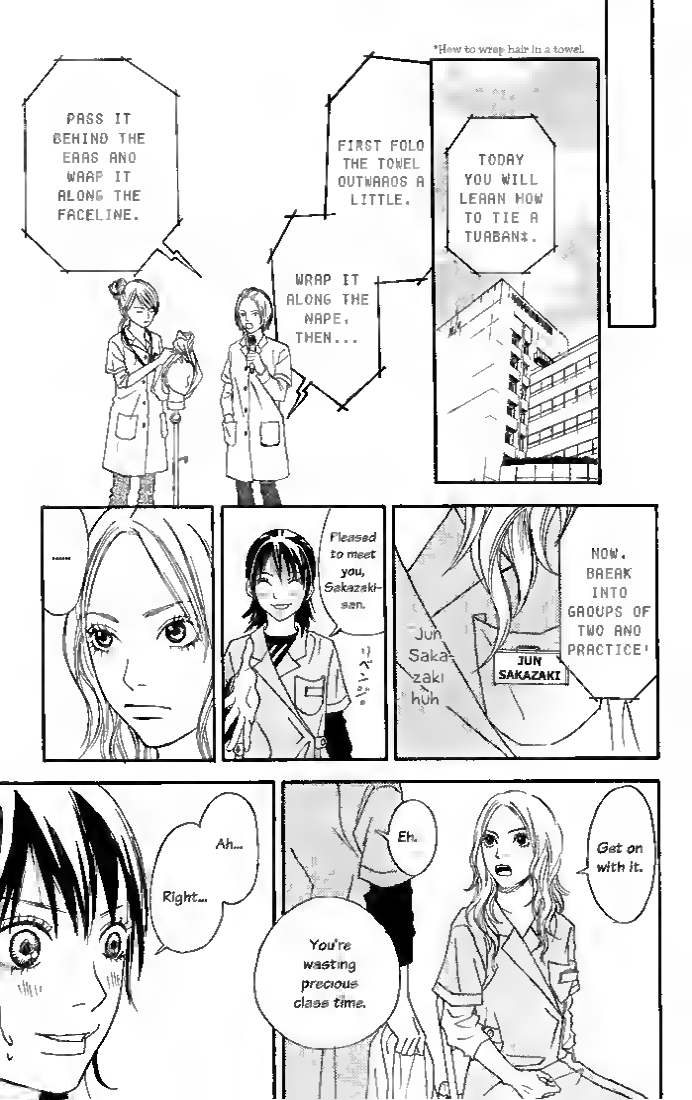
Ahaha That's true,
... HAHA. YOU SAW ME JUST YESTERDAY.
...
You-chan, how's studying going?
How did you do in that test you talked about?
I want to see you...
I guess I said something I shouldn't have...
I...
I'M HANGING UP NOW ...
You-chan!?
Eh.. But...
THAT'S NOT REALLY ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS. ...

I want to see the stars in this sky

It feels so far away

I don't know why but

Even though it's the same sky, just a few miles away...


*How to wrap hair in a towel.
PASS IT BEHIND THE EARS AND WRAP IT ALONG THE FACELINE.
FIRST FOLD THE TOWEL OUTWARDS A LITTLE.
WRAP IT ALONG THE NAPE. THEN...
TODAY YOU WILL LEARN HOW TO TIE A TURBAN*.
....
Pleased to meet you, Sakazaki-san.
よろしくお願いします。
NOW. BREAK INTO GROUPS OF TWO AND PRACTICE!
Jun Sakazaki huh
JUN SAKAZAKI
Ah...
Right...
Eh.
You're wasting precious class time.
Get on with it.

Like, this can't be a school...
Are you taking this seriously?
.....
.....
.....
I-I can't take it
This silence
Jun-chan, are you from Tokyo?
So, err...
I'm from Kyuushu
Fukuoka in Kyuushu.
Tokyo is so amazing. I couldn't believe it when I first saw this building!
Eh?

I hate them!
Do you have the leisure to be prattling on instead of working?
Ah
You..
Frivolous people like you...

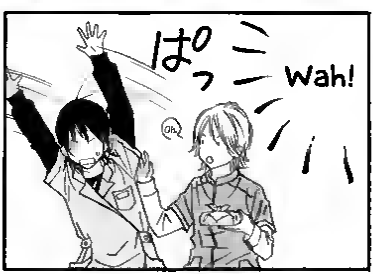
That's not true
"Frivolous"
She said.
To make friends?
Is it really that hard...
I feel like I'm...
All alone...

……
…Actually I'm alone too.
haha

You poor thing
Huh? Hikari, are you eating alone?
Jou-kun

ぎゅっ
Let's eat together~

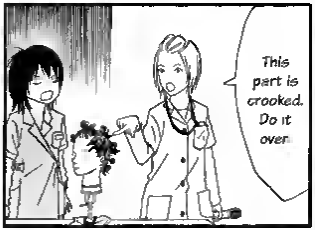
I...I'm going to wash my hands....

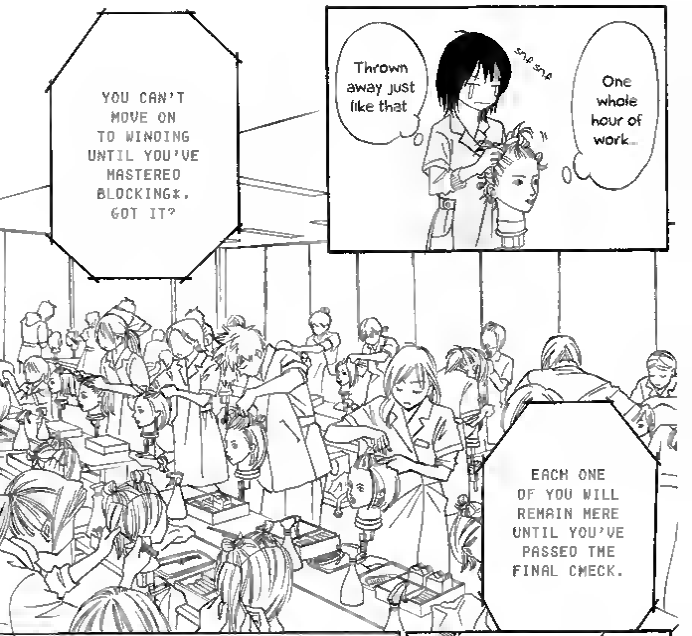

はっ
Wah!
Oh.

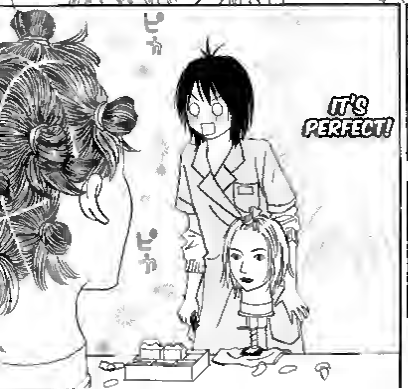
It's just one thing after another
I can't make any friends...
You-chan hasn't contacted me in days...
what's his problem?

As usual.

This won't do.


This part is crooked. Do it over.

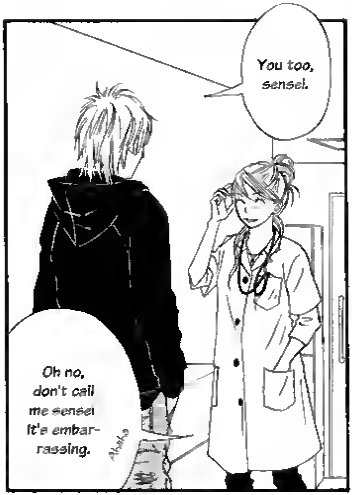

YOU CAN'T MOVE ON TO WINDING UNTIL YOU'VE MASTERED BLOCKING*. GOT IT?
Thrown away just like that
snip snip
One whole hour of work...
EACH ONE OF YOU WILL REMAIN HERE UNTIL YOU'VE PASSED THE FINAL CHECK.



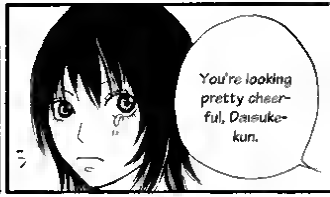
*Dividing the hair into sections to make it easier to work with.

"Stupid
Since he said that I assumed he wasn't any good, but
Wow .. Shiga-kun is so good...
Come to think of it
Jou-kun and Jun-chan are really good too
Maybe I m..
リクゴ
.....

I'm heading back to the staff room now
A failure!?
Left behind.
When you're done...
Bring it over and I'll check it
Third time
Fail.
One more time.
If I try hard, I can do it too!
I'm not a failure!
Please check it


You too, sensei.
Oh no, don't call me sensei It's embarrassing.

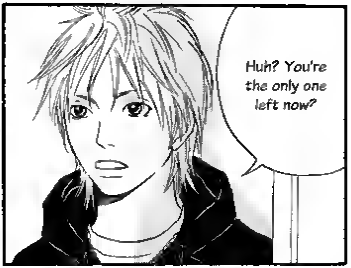
Geez, I don't even know what's wrong with it anyway


You're looking pretty cheerful, Daisuke-kun.

Miya-sensei and Shiga-kun?
I've been pretty worried...
I'm glad you decided to become a beautician.
But, I'm so glad...

I get the feeling I shouldn't eaves-drop!
I don't know why, but
Miya-san, I..

.....


Huh? You're the only one left now?

Y...Yeah..

Look, right there. From the top
Eh?
Really!?
Huh!?
Where?
It's crooked
Ah.
You did it again.
Now that you mention it, you're right...
When you're coming down from the top right, you tend to cut along the inside.
That's why the back comes out too wide.

I'm done! Sweet!
I see! So from the top...
Alright!
.....
Ah .. He smiled.
I didn't ..
Really do anything
I did it! And it's all thanks to you, Shiga-kun!

Shiga-kun, you're really good at this
.....
Do your parents run a salon or something..?
Why?
Ah... no.. err...
It's just that you seem to know Miya-chan, and...
Somehow
He, he's staring at me!
.....
Ah, and also...
My mom's a beautician at a small salon back home!
My goal is to become like her..
Maybe Shiga-kun feels the same way...
Is what I thought.

That sort of thing doesn't really matter, does it?
But ..
I never want to be like my father!
Huh..?
Shiga-kun!?
.....
I think I asked something I shouldn't have...
But...
He's much nicer than I thought

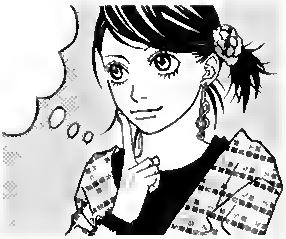
Aaah
My neck's
so stiff!
And where
have you
been fooling
around all
this while!?
Huh...?
You-chan!?

I left it
More importantly...
Umm... Why...
Since when..?
What about the dorm?
After I went through the trouble of making time to be with you...
I've been trying to call you since afternoon, but...
You never picked up and you didn't even send a single mail!!
You totally ignored me and went and had a good time, didn't you!?

No...!
I had to stay behind and finish my work.
And my phone...
We're not allowed to use them at school.
So I didn't notice...
But...
You could have hidden somewhere and checked it, couldn't you?
So tell me...
ドン!!

Which you care about more? Me, or school?

Which do you care about more? Me, or school?
.....



TO BE CHAPTER 02
TRANS/EDITS. BY REQUEST
HTTP://MANGABYREQUEST.BLOGSPOT.

Nothing's gone right since I came here.
I'm studying so desperately, but..
My grades just keep falling and falling.
Everyone's leaving me behind.
Meanwhile you seem to be having fun every day
....
That's not true...
I have my own problems too!
But this is the path you've chosen.

Maybe I could have helped..
.....
Why... didn't you say anything?
About how hard your classes were or something-
....
How could I have!?
How?
When you were getting closer and closer to your dream?

I do get it, you know.
I know it's not your fault...
I get it, but...
I still want to see things that way.
The two of us...
Just thinking about how pitiful I am makes me miserable

Let's break up.
I'm sorry.
You-chan...
——
"I'm going to get into law school."

The admission rate is low
Silly.
You don't become one so easily
Whoa, that's so cool!
Eh?
You mean you're going to become a lawyer?
But first..
I've gotta get into university
Right, Hikari?
School in Tokyo will be fun!

Why...?
You promised...
You-chan, you're the one who said
That we should do our best together

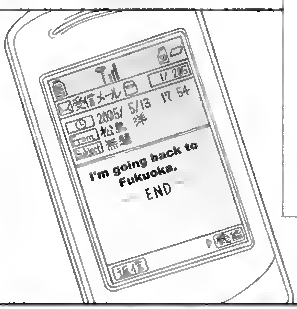
It was our hearts

Wasn't time...

What slipped away from us.

Several days later...

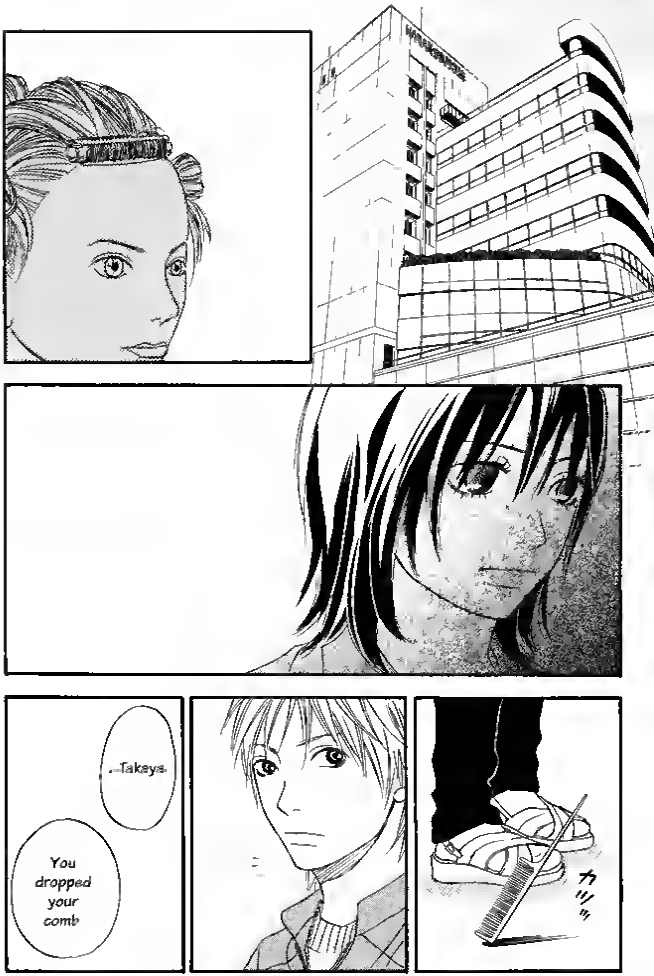
I got an e-mail from You-chan.



Just one line.

Was over in a flash.

My three-year long romance with You-chan.


...Takeya.
You dropped your comb
カツ

Takaya, the comb!
Huh!?
Takaya?
.....
Ah..
Sorry.
Honestly, Takaya.
Why are you always so slow?

And you're still on your second!
Everyone else has already rolled their 6th rod....
Are you serious about your work!?
.....
Pull yourself together!
If you don't want to do this, no one's forcing you to be here!

I can't concentrate.
I can't settle down.
What should I do?
.....
I'm sorry...

Want a drink?
Ah.
Thanks.

What happened to all that spirit earlier?
.....
That's some horrible winding* right there.
ぐちゃぐちゃ
At this rate you'll never achieve that dream you were talking about.

*A basic skill necessary for perming hair. 4 different types of rods are used to roll up the hair. In the National Exam, examinees are expected to roll more than 60 rods in 20 minutes.

My boyfriend...
Just dumped me.
.....
Even though he said we should work hard together..
And we came to Tokyo.
He went back home alone.
.....
Somehow..
I've lost my drive.
I just don't know.

I don't know what to do...
Pathetic.
So your dream was such a flimsy thing, so easily shaken by something like that
Here I was thinking you were kind of cool.
But I guess you're nothing special after all.

"Some-thing like that"...?
Shiga-kun, you don't understand how I feel!
...

You look awful
Ahhh.
This...
It must be getting in your eyes...
If you opened up your field of view, maybe you'd feel better?

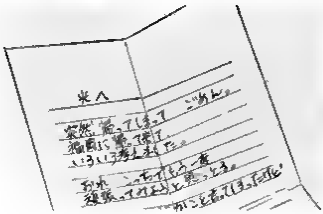
...
Your bangs...
Shall I cut them?
You'll feel better
...
Okay...

...All done.
Open your eyes.

Wow...!
It's like my field of view really did open up!
It suits you.
.....

Incredible...
You were just like my mom, Shiga-kun.
I feel like a whole new person now.
Thank you!
Well...
I've had a similar experience before.
Huh...?
You can become one, Takaya.
A beautician that underetands people's feelings.

Yeah.
I will.
Because ...
That's what I came here for.

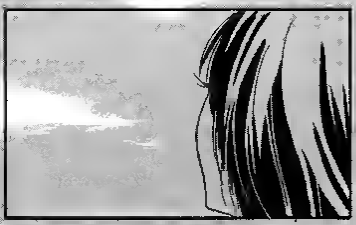


Dear
Hikari,

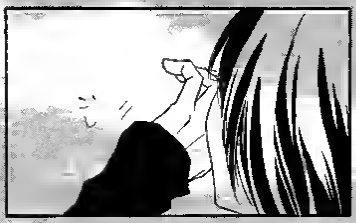
Forgive me for leaving so suddenly

Since I got back to Fukuoka, I've been doing a lot of thinking.

And I've decided to make a go of things over here



I said some pretty cruel things at the end, but...



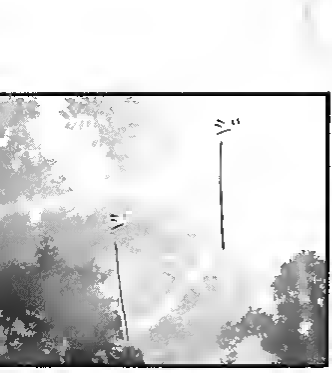
I'm rooting for you, Hikari.

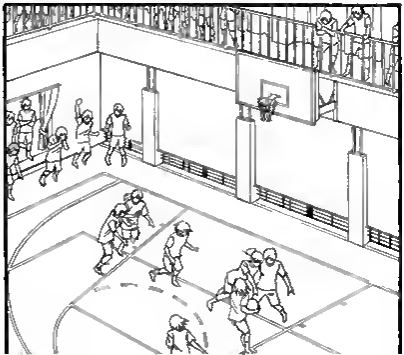
Thank you.

Please do your best.

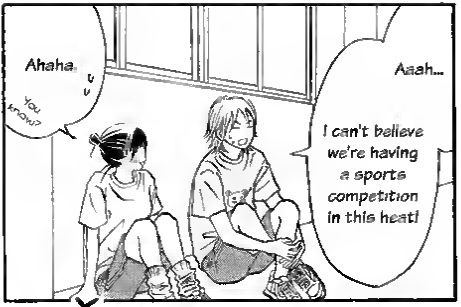
You Matsushima.

It will be... when I'm a fully-qualified hairstylist!

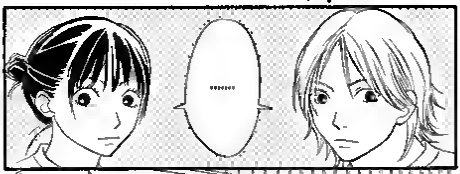




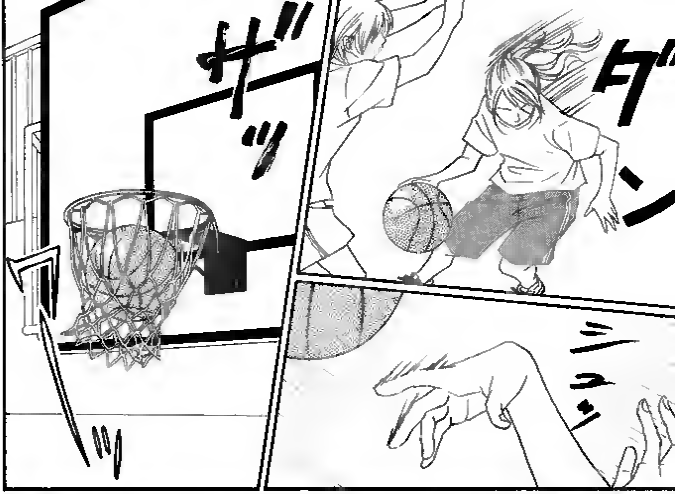
...?
Huh?
Jou-kun
What's the matter? All by yourself...
Ah...
Ah... nothing
I'm just tired.
Taking a break
Hikari


Ahaha...
You know?
Aaah...
I can't believe we're having a sports competition in this heat!

ピーッ

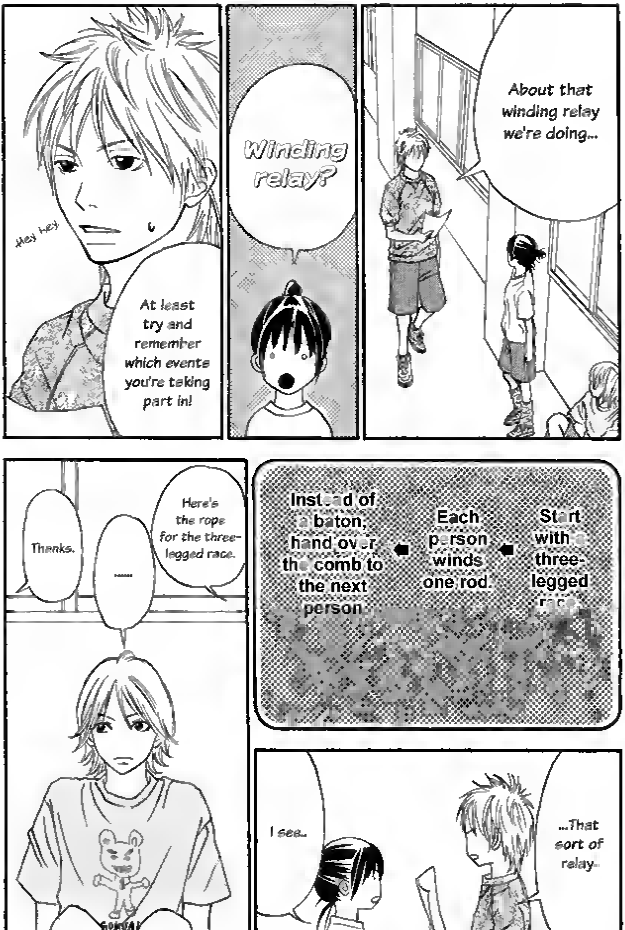

.....

5組!?
L'il


ザッ
ダン
シュッ

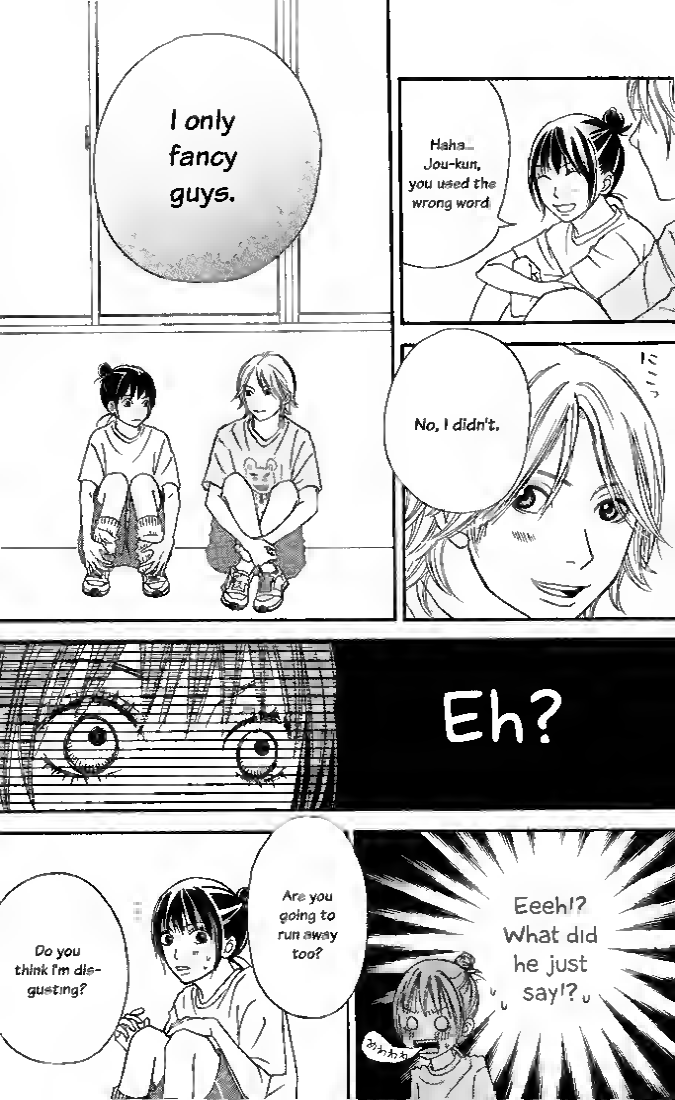
――
――
ハクハク
And I hear she's taking part in 5 events.
Wow...
Seriously

Takeya.
Which one are you doing, Hikari?
Err.. shh... what was it again?


Hey, hey!
At least try and remember which events you're taking part in!
Winding relay?
About that winding relay we're doing...
Here's the rope for the three-legged race.
.....
Thanks.
Instead of a baton, hand over the comb to the next person.
Each person winds one rod.
Start with three-legged race.
I see..
...That sort of relay.

Your bangs grew out again, huh.
I'll cut them for you again.
Okay...
Ah...
.....
That was a shock!
Say, Hikari...
Tha..
Do you like Daisuke?
Huh!?

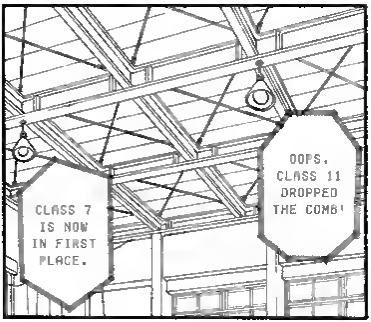
You guys had a pretty good vibe going on there.
W...what are you talking about?!
Of course not...!
Go on, go on, you don't have to hide it.
No need to get so flustered, either.
I'm telling you...
Jo... Jou-kun.
I wish I had a cool boyfriend like that!
You're so lucky, Hikari.
Daisuke Shiga is so cool.
.....


I only fancy guys.
Haha... Jou-kun, you used the wrong word
にこっ
No, I didn't.
Eh?
Do you think I'm disgusting?
Are you going to run away too?
Eeeh!? What did he just say!?
あわわわ

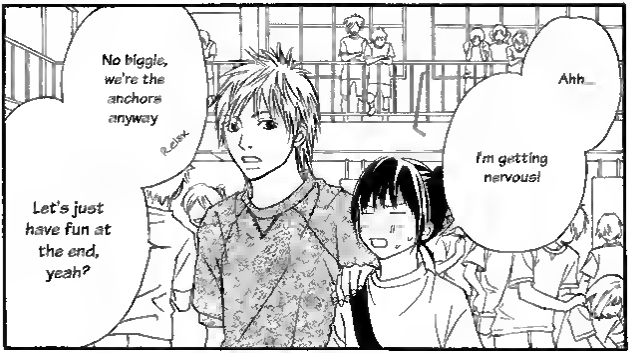
I can't help liking what I like, can I?
But...
For me, this is only natural
·····
That I could speak to from the heart.
Still... because of that...
Up till now I haven't had a single friend...
That's why I don't want to hide it any more.
I am me.

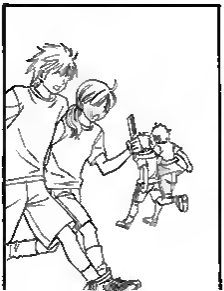
I want to live as an expert.
When you're a beautician or a make-up artist...
So long as you have the skills, it doesn't matter whether you're a man or a woman, right?
I want to able to live as a human being, Shinichi Jou.
...
...
...something like that
ehehe
I don't think you're disgusting.

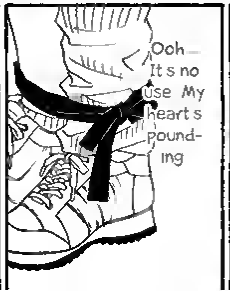
As far as I'm concerned, Jou-kun is Jou-kun!
It doesn't matter who you like.
Gyaah!
I knew you were a good person!
Hikari...
My...
Very first...
There there
I never get used to this
You're the first friend I've ever made at school!


CLASS 7 IS NOW IN FIRST PLACE.
OOPS, CLASS 11 DROPPED THE COMB!

Friend...


No biggie, we're the anchors anyway
Let's just have fun at the end, yeah?
Ahh...
I'm getting nervous!




Ooh... It's no use. My heart's pounding

Yeah

Don't rush, Takaya. Calm down.
Aaah. My hands... I can't do it right...

Finished!
Alright! We're in 1st place now!
Last spurt!
Why is my heart beating so fast?
That's right It's because Jou-kun said that silly thing
But...

Somehow...
This is really FUN!
FIRST PLACE GOES TO... CLASS 5!
SECOND PLACE IS CLASS 5...
No way! Why!? Did I get too worked up?
How embarrassing!
Ah! Blood!
Huh!?
Takaya! Nosebleed!
We did it, Taka...

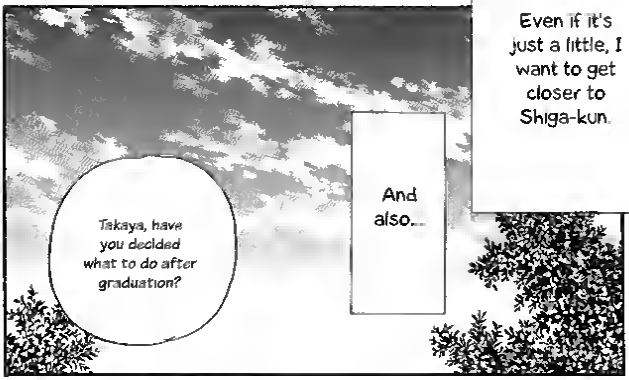
!
It'll get dirty...
Eh?
Here, use this.
What is this...
Why is my heart beating so fast?
Wha...
.....

snort
Eh?
Because of the relay?
Or maybe...
"Hikari, do you like Daisuke?"
Haha...
You're so funny, Takaya.
A normal person wouldn't ask!
That summer
What I felt was...
The foreshadowing of an unexpected love.

Everybody starts working towards the National Exam
In the 2nd year...
You study shampooing, cutting, coloring...
The classes get more specialized
Ah!
Gyaa!
11" ミヤー
Hey!
You just poured water in my ear! Watch what you're doing you clumsy oaf!
So.
Sorry, Jou-kun...

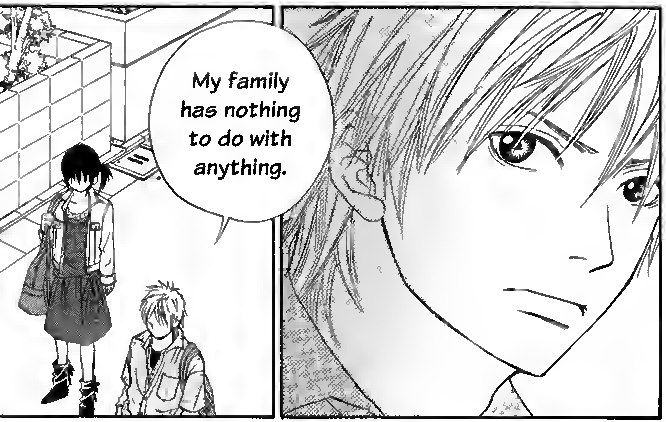
*There are a number of competitions for students from beauty schools. Those chosen as contestants have to follow a special and difficult curriculum.

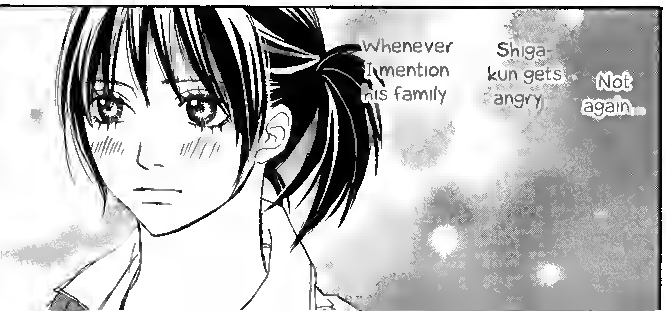
TO BE... CHAPTER 03
TRANS/EDITS BY REQUEST
HTTP://MANGABYREQUEST.BLOGSPOT.COM


Takaya, have you decided what to do after graduation?
And also...
Even if it's just a little, I want to get closer to Shiga-kun.

chiri
...is what I was thinking.
Eventually I'll return to Fukuoka and open a salon with my mom...
That way I can save up some money.
Yeah! I want to work in a Tokyo salon for a while.
What about you, Shiga-kun?
What'll you do after you graduate?

I heard a rumor that your family owns a pretty big salon!
I guess you're going to take over, huh.
Expand the store and stuff like that.
.....


My family has nothing to do with anything.


Whenever I mention his family
Shiga-kun gets angry
Not again...

What makes him that way...?
I want to know
Ah
My place is right up ahead.
Okay. I'm going to go see a friend, so...
Let's part here
Ah... Sure...
Why don't you come up for a cup of tea?
Umm...
I mean...
If you've got the time.
I...
I'd like to get to know you better!

Ah...
That came out wrong...
.....
No! I didn't...
I didn't mean it that way...!
I just wanted us to talk some more...
Is what I meant...!
Umm umm
Sorry, but...
I'll pass.
I'm not coming up for anything
Ah... Okay.
I guess that's it

Being told so bluntly...
And so harshly
I want to get closer...
Closer and closer...
It was no use
See you tomorrow
I know that, but
.....
OUR SPEAKER TODAY... IS THE MANAGER OF 20 SALONS IN TOKYO AND KANAGAWA
TOSHIO SHIGA-SENSEI!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW I EXPANDED.
THE SMALL SALON MY FATHER LEFT ME INTO A CHAIN OF 20 SALONS...
IT'S BECAUSE MY VISION WAS LARGER AND CLEARER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S...
BECAUSE I WAS DETER-MINED...
BECAUSE I PERSE-VERED...
ZZZZZ
ZZZZZ

Psst! Hikari, wake up!
How are you going to write a report if you don't listen to the speech?
Ahhh
Oh no I dozed off...
It's so boring!
EVERY-ONE.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE FIRST STEP TO BUILDING A CLIENT BASE IS?
THE KEY IS...
NO MATTER HOW HARD THE REQUEST IS...
YOU MUST ALWAYS BE ABLE TO GIVE EXCELLENT SERVICE.
ALWAYS THINK OF THEM FIRST.
It's like a lullaby it sounds so good...
AND ACT ACCORD-INGLY
AND SO WE...
ガタッ
ビクッ

....
HOLD IT.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M STILL TALKING.

Your speech is nothing but lies. I can't take any more of it.
.....
Eh... Wait, Hikari?
Not you too
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ

Idiot, why'd you follow me?
You're not going to get off with just a letter of apology, you know
Shiga-kun!
.....
Forget about me, I'm worried about you.
What's going on!?
Hold it right there.

What do you mean by calling my speech nothing but lies?
Daisuke...
I...I'm sorry!
He's not really feeling well...
Errr...
So...
Huh...? "Daisuke"?
This guy can't be...
Shiga-kun's father!?
The owner of 20 mega-salons...!?

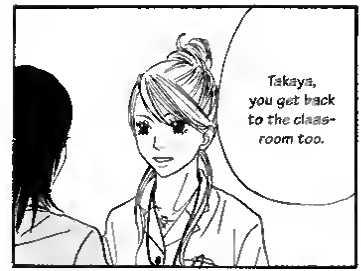
You never ever think about your clients
The only thing you care about is making money!
I called them lies because that's what they are.
I'm a manager now
What's wrong with putting profits first?
If you keep acting so naive...
I'll disinherit you!
.....
Who cares about that..

Who would want to work there?!
Stop it, Shiga-kun!
A salon run by a selfish, arrogant man like you...
You... Aren't you Yamashiro's daughter?
.....
Back to the classroom.
Come on, both of you.
I'm really sorry about this, Shiga-sensei.

And so you're filling Daisuke's head with nonsense.
You're still holding a grudge from the past.
So you were a teacher here, I see
Screw you!
Daisuke-kun, stop!
Because of you, Miya-san's...
Whose fault do you think this is?
Hey! What are you people doing!?

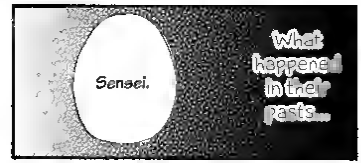
Hey! Listen to me!
.....!
Let go of me!
It's all your fault!

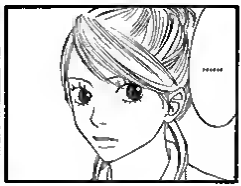
I've seen Shiga-kun like that!
This is the first time

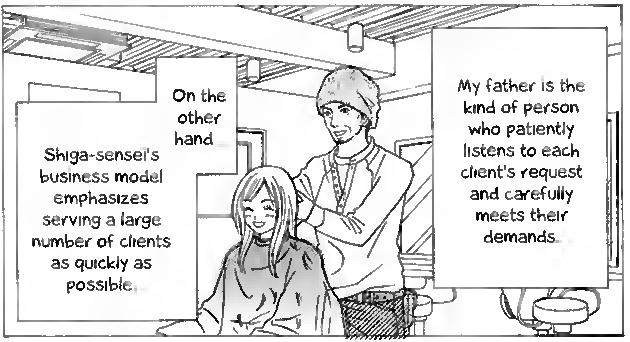


What happened_?

To Shiga-kun






On the other hand...
Shiga-sensei's business model emphasizes serving a large number of clients as quickly as possible...
My father is the kind of person who patiently listens to each client's request and carefully meets their demands...

Eventually he and Shiga-sensei had a falling out...

He could only make so many sales a day.

Of course, with my father's method...

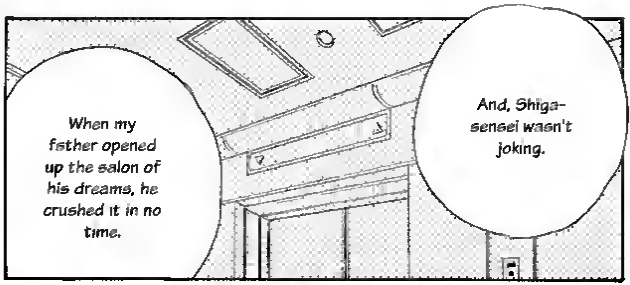
That day...

Even if you get more clients in the short term, you won't get any loyal customers in the long run!

Please think about the clients a little more!

If you do things that way, there's no way the client will go home happy!

Well, since you have such a wonderful theory...
Go ahead and quit, and do whatever you want
...
Your method is wrong!
However...
If you do that...
...
You can open your own place.
.....
No matter where you go...
I will crush your salon!
My father was fired that day...


When my father opened up the salon of his dreams, he crushed it in no time.
And, Shiga-sensei wasn't joking.

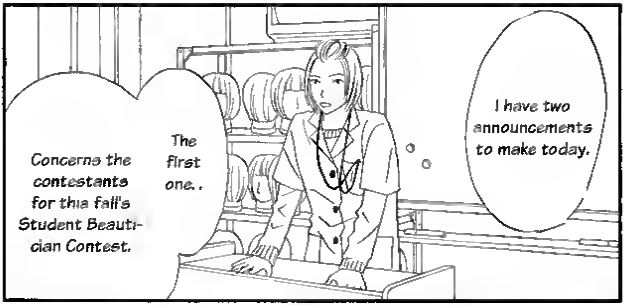
He needn't feel bad about what happened any more...
Daisuke-kun too...
...So this is an old, old story.
But now my father owns a small place on the outskirts of town.

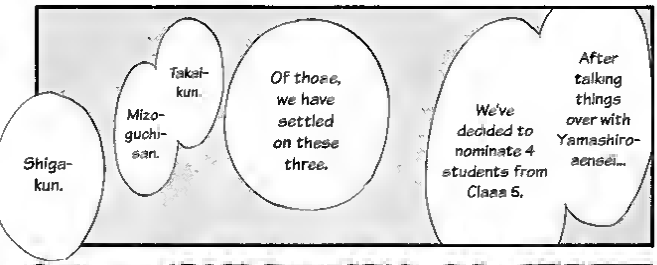
It's all stuff that happened long, long ago.
For just a little while, yeah...
Until that incident occurred...
But to me that's all in the past.
Sensei, you and...
Shiga-kun were...

"All in the past"
But
That might not be so.
They were dating...
.....
As far as Shiga-kun is concerned...
You heard everything from Miya-san, huh..
...yeah.

She said "it's all in the past now, so..."
But... it's not over within me.
The past hasn't disappeared.
Yeah...
It happened long ago
B-but...
You shouldn't feel responsible for what happened, Shiga-kun
Even though you were dating at the time...
It was a fight between the two fathers
And...
When an employee tries to go against his employer's methods, well...
It can't be helped.
So does that make it okay for him to do whatever he likes!?

it wasn't just about our parents!
I can't forget about it so easily!
Shiga-kun
He still has feelings for her
He still
Can't let go
Good morning Settle down!

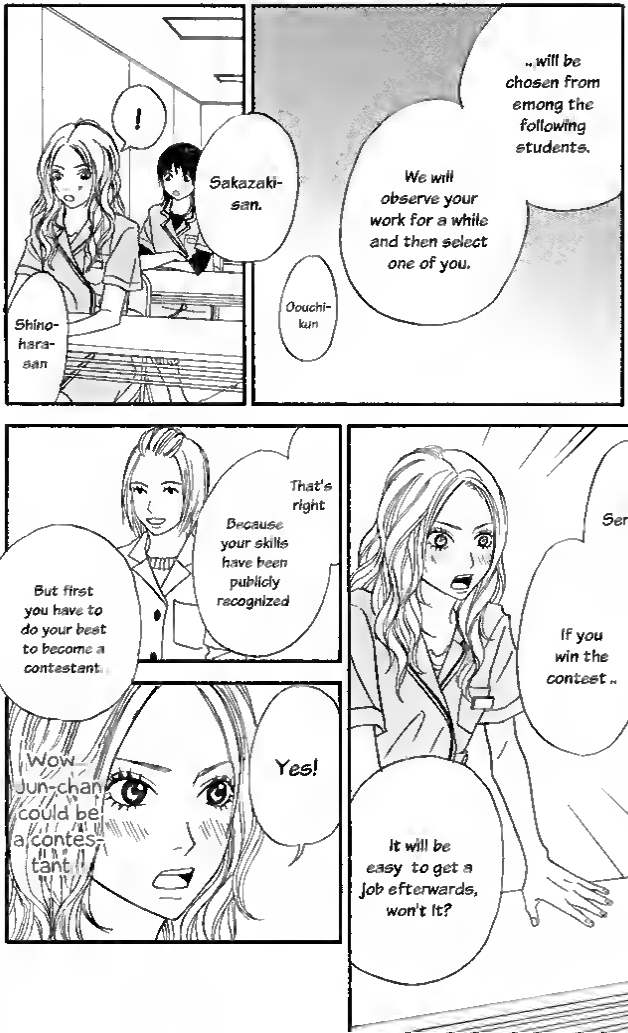

I have two announcements to make today.
The first one. .
Concerns the contestants for this fall's Student Beautician Contest.


After talking things over with Yamashiro-sensei...
We've decided to nominate 4 students from Class 5.
Of those, we have settled on these three.
Takai-kun.
Mizo-guchi-san.
Shiga-kun.

The last contes-tant...

—

So cool, Shiga-kun!


..will be chosen from emong the following students.
We will observe your work for a while and then select one of you.
Oouchi-kun
Sakazaki-san.
!
Shino-hara-san
Sensei!
If you win the contest ..
It will be easy to get a job efterwards, won't it?
That's right
Because your skills have been publicly recognized
But first you have to do your best to become a contestant.
Yes!
Wow Jun-chan could be a contes-tant!!

This might seem a bit sudden, but...
After this term, my assistant Yamashiro-sensei...
I have to try even harder now!
Next, the other piece of news.
Will be resigning and getting married.
Eh...!?
A word from you, Yamashiro-sensei...
I'm sure this has come as a shock to all of you.

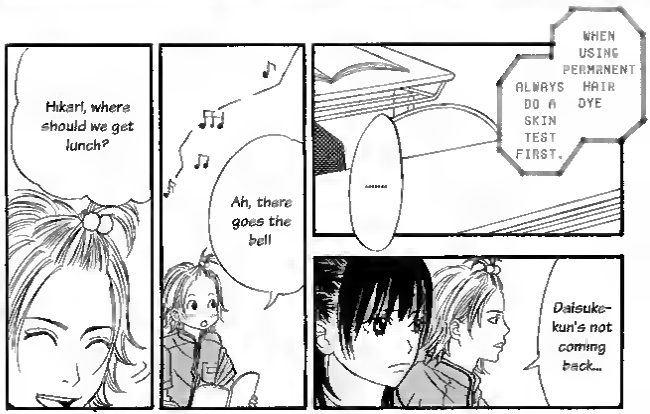
I can't be with you all until you graduate...
Which makes me really sad, but...
This summer I'll be moving to my fiance's hometown.
We're going to set up a salon together.

We'll come visit!
Miya-chan! Congrats!
Let's enjoy the remaining time we have together.

That's it for today's assembly
Rise.
Thank you very much.
Sensei.

I'm...
I'm not going to take part in the contest.
.....

.....
Shiga-kun...


Hikari, where should we get lunch?
Ah, there goes the bell
WHEN USING PERMANENT HAIR DYE ALWAYS DO A SKIN TEST FIRST.
.....
Daisuke-kun's not coming back...

6/5
Huh...?

You even skipped class...
What are you doing out here?
I'm not doing it.
.....
Shiga-kun, are you really withdrawing from the contest?
You were kidding, right?
Lots of people want to do it, but can't...
Isn't something just anyone gets.
Being selected as a contestant...
What are you talking about?

If they want to do it so badly, they can go right ahead.
It's better than me going when I don't want to.
They might get a nice prize out of it.
Aren't you being stupid!?

Do your dreams mean so little to you!?
"How stupid"!
And leaving you behind, you're here sulking!?
Just because Miya-chan's getting married...
That's what...
You told me last time, Shiga-kun.
Because you were there for me then.

That's why I can work this hard now.
I know it.
I know Shiga-kun...
Really loves the beauty industry.
Now it's my turn...
When you cut my bangs...
I felt it clearly!
I look up to you, Shiga-kun.
I don't want you to give up so easily...

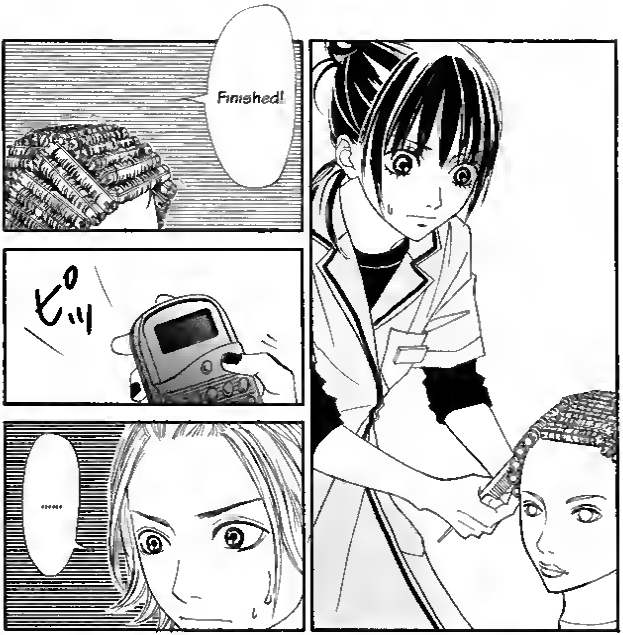
Geez...
Just leave me alone!
I won't!

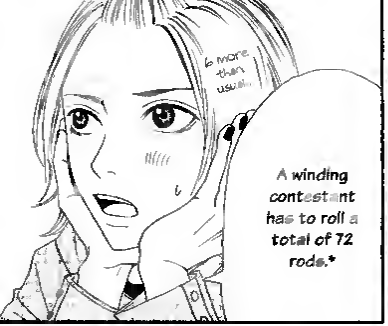
I won't leave you alone...
Shiga-kun, please...
Don't run from what's in front of you
Don't be confused
Don't run away...
Don't give up!
Please let me be a contestant candidate too!
.....
Sensei!

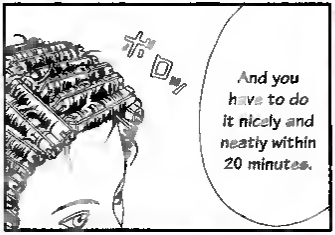
What are you talking about?
We've already narrowed the possible candidates down to three.
For you to be a contestant now...
.....
Is impossible unless you work extremely hard.
I understand that.
But I want to try it no matter what!
I'll work really hard, so...
Please let me be a candidate!
.....
Very well.
If you feel that strongly about it...
I'll let you try.
Alright!

You, a candidate? At this point? What a joke!
Jun-chan...
I'll never lose to you!
I will be the one chosen as a contestant!
.....
Same here...
I, too...

...Will never lose to you!


Finished!
ピッ
.....

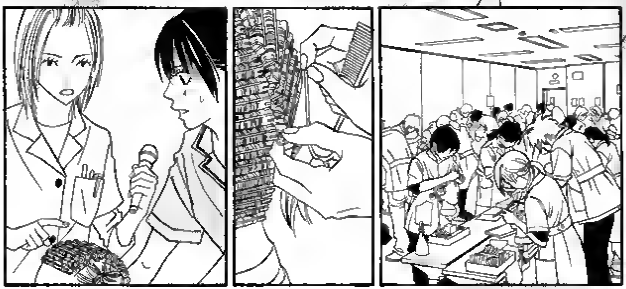


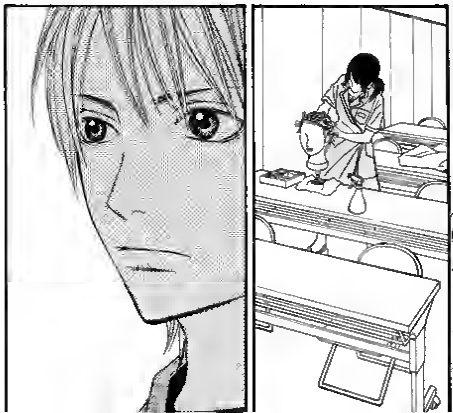


The contest tests skills at a higher level than the National Exam does.

.....
ガタン!!
Shiga-kun.

I...
I've decided to try and become a contestant.
Since you've decided to pull out...
I figure I've got a chance too.
Okay! Time me, Jou-kun!
Okay!
.....



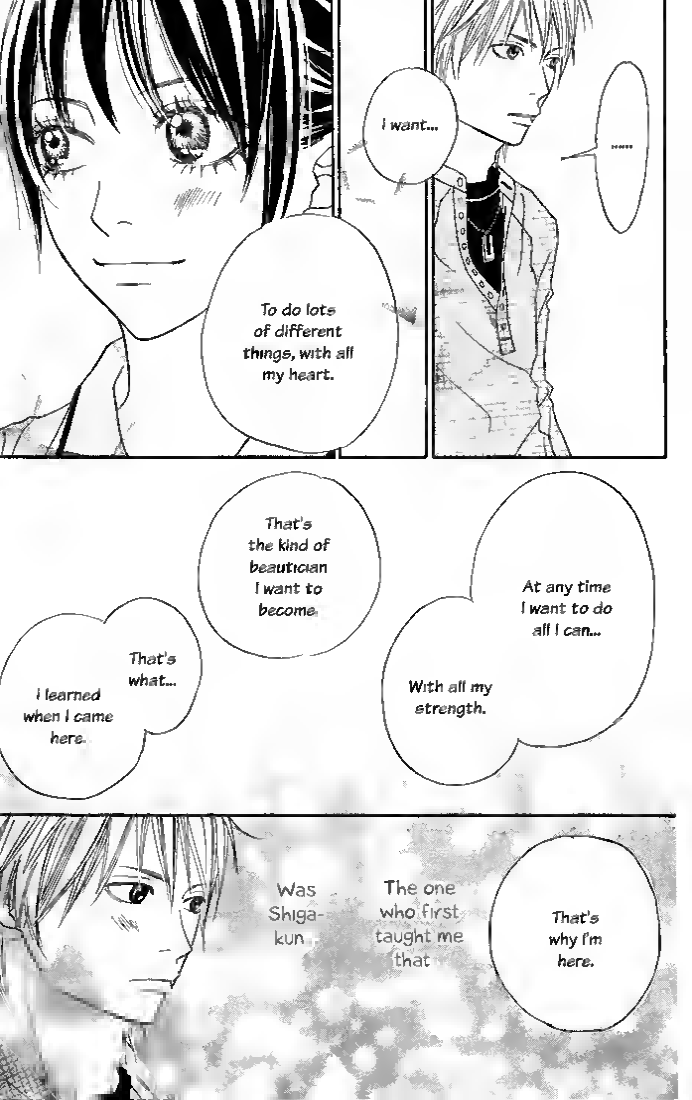


Whatchu doin'?
どう
Ah! You're worried about Hikari, aren't you?
Then just go in and give her some advice!
Eh...
ガシッ
Yeah?
ミス

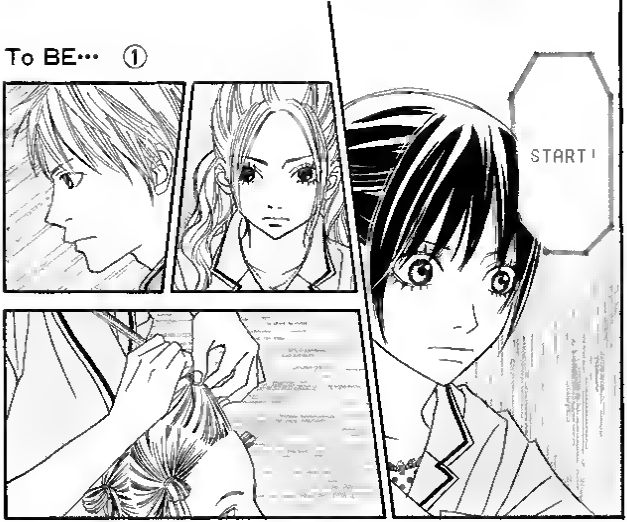
ガラッ
ドンッ
Uwaaah!
ヒロシ!!
Ah.
—
What's the matter?
Shiga-kun...
Jou

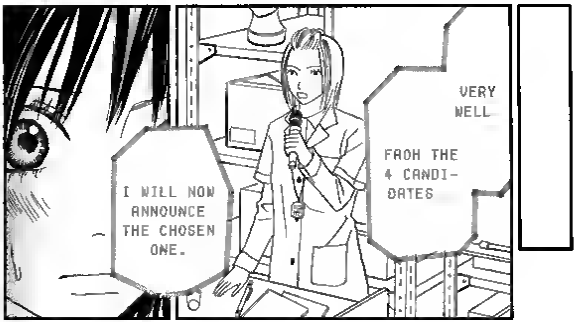
Nah... nothing...
Why...?
Huh?
Takaya...
Why are you trying so hard?
For you to reach the level of a contestant at this stage...
Is probably impossible.

I won't know unless I try.
Probably, but it's not definite yet.
.....
What about you, Shiga-kun?
Why did you come to this school?
Why have you worked so hard for so long?
So you could see Miya-sensei? Or so you could fulfill your dream?
To get back at your dad? Or to become the beautician you always wanted to be?


I want...
.....
To do lots of different things, with all my heart.
That's the kind of beautician I want to become.
That's what...
I learned when I came here.
At any time I want to do all I can...
With all my strength.
Was Shiga-kun
The one who first taught me that
That's why I'm here.

I guess...
THE FINAL TEST FOR THE CONTESTANT CANDIDATES WILL NOW BEGIN.
FULL-HEAD WINDING IN 20 MINUTES.
READY ...


START!


I WILL NOW ANNOUNCE THE CHOSEN ONE.
VERY WELL
FROM THE 4 CANDI-DATES

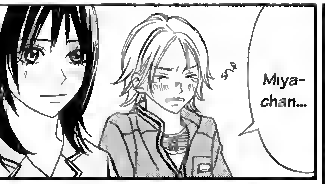
Do your best!
Yes!
Sakazaki-san.
Y...
Yes?
.....
Hikari...
Congratu-lations, Jun-chan!

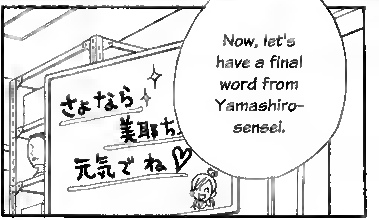
Th...
Thank you...
Come to the staff room later.
Okay...
....
Also, Shiga-kun.
That's it for today's assembly.
Rise!
Thank you very much

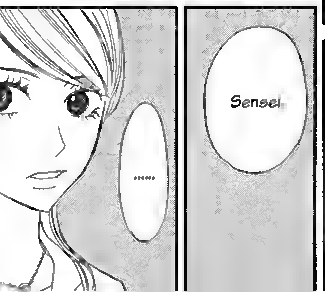
Shiga-kun...
ガサ
Excuse me.
.....

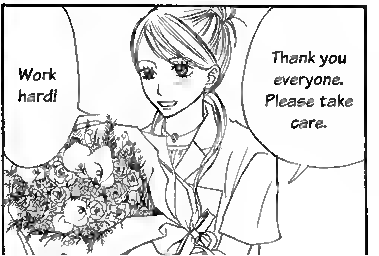
I'm very sorry!
But I wanted to check with you first...
If we add you now, we'll have 4 contes-tants.
.....
I apologize for my rudeness.
I lost sight of what I came here for.
Somehow.

.....
I'm expecting great things of you!
Thank you!
Please...
Please let me contest!


Miya-chan...


Now, let's have a final word from Yamashiro-sensei.
さよなら
美耶ちゃん
元気でね♡


Sensei.
.....


Work hard!
Thank you everyone. Please take care.

Congratulations.
I'm going to keep working hard, so...
Please be happy, sensei.
Thank you, Shiga-kun.

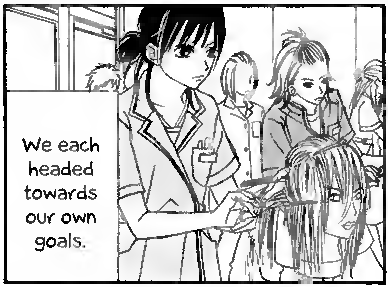
I almost gave up and went back to the way I used to be.
But I'm glad.
I managed to get through to you..
I'm happy you've found your goal again, Shiga-kun.
But thanks to you my eyes have opened
I didn't really do anything.
.....

Shiga-kun,
I admire you...
I respect you...
I'm your biggest fan...
I'm...
I'm in love with you, Shiga-kun!

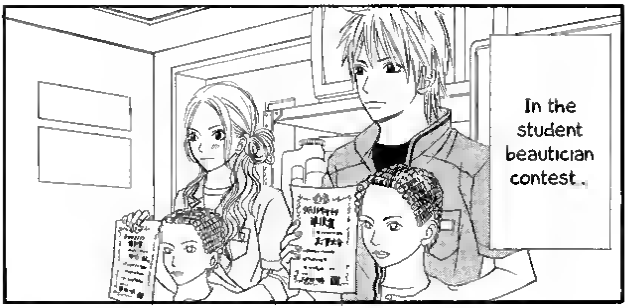
I really want to be with you, as close to you as possible.
Ah...
You don't have to answer right now.
I just wanted to let you know, that's all.

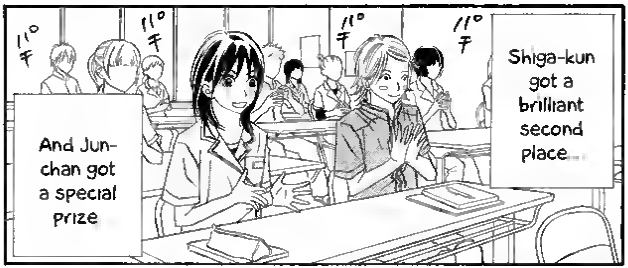
Thanks!
Good luck...
...in the contest.
I'm going to go all out!

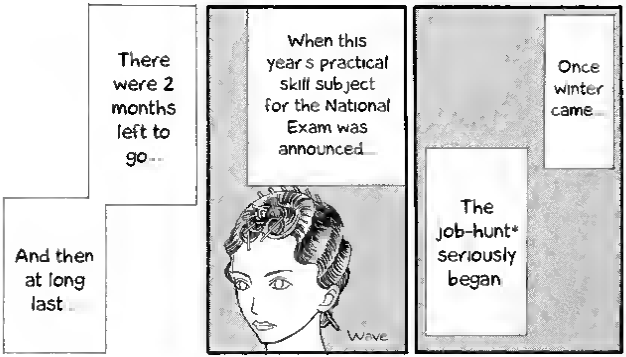
After that...


We each headed towards our own goals.

Summer passed by in a flash.
We worked day and night at our own tasks






There were 2 months left to go...
And then at long last...
When this year's practical skill subject for the National Exam was announced...
Wave
Once winter came...
The job-hunt* seriously began

Before graduation and while waiting for a license, it is common for students to start looking for employment at a hair salon.

2007 National Beautician's Exam.

Aaah, I've just lost all my confidence...
We'll be fine!
We've spent 2 years practicing every day for this day.
If we just go all out like always...
Our dreams will come true.
READY...
WE WILL COMMENCE THE "CUTTING" SECTION OF THE NATIONAL BEAUTICIAN'S EXAM.
RIGHT NOW...
BEGIN!

Now then..
All of us in Class 5 passing the exam and getting jobs!
Let's celebrate...
Congrats!
Cheers!
Jou-kun, cheers!
It's too early to say that...
We won't get our results until after graduation...
Hikari.. I get the feeling you'll be a bad drunk..
I'm fine, I'm fine!
Don't drink too much. I'd hate to have to carry you home.

Y... Yeah.
Cheers, Shiga-kun!
Jun-chan, cheers!
Cheers.
.....
.....
Won't you sit down?
O... Okay.
What are you so happy about?
That's different from usual
You're normally

You know...
To tell the truth, I never did like you.
EH..?
The first time I saw you..
You looked so dumb I was certain you were there for some stupid reason
I was sure you'd drop out in no time at all.
When you tried to become a contestant too..
I was pretty pissed off!
....!!
But you were really serious about it.
And that made me feel I didn't want to lose to you.

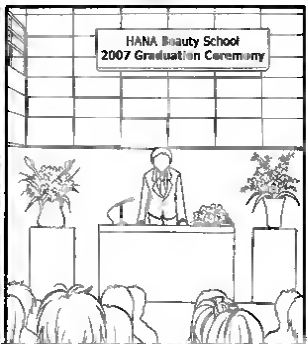
I'm grateful to you, Takaya-san.
I was able to enter the contest and win a prize...
Because I had such a good rival to compete with.
Jun-chan...
Huh!?
Hey! You're not drinking at all!
Don't hold back, drink up!
O...
Okay!
Excuse me, two more beers!
All the efforts I made...

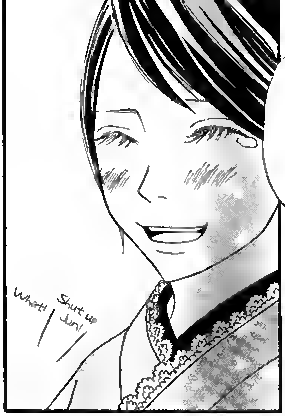
I have people who watch out for me.

Not a single one was in vain.

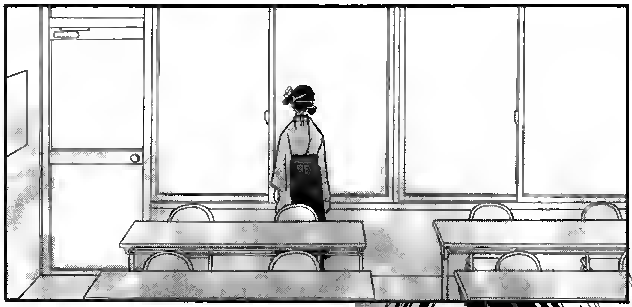
Friends I respect and who respect me...

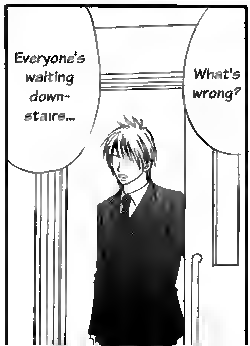
I'm proud to have them.

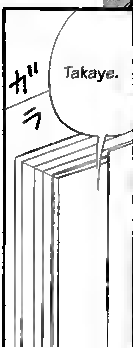


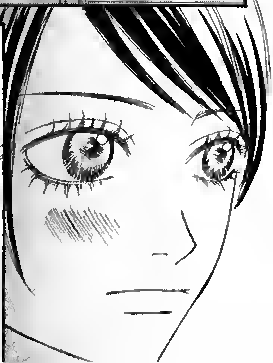

Whatt!
Shut up Juri!

Don't exaggerate... You'll only be working 2 stations apart.
Hikariiiii! Even when we're far apart we'll always be friends, won't we?
わ〜ん

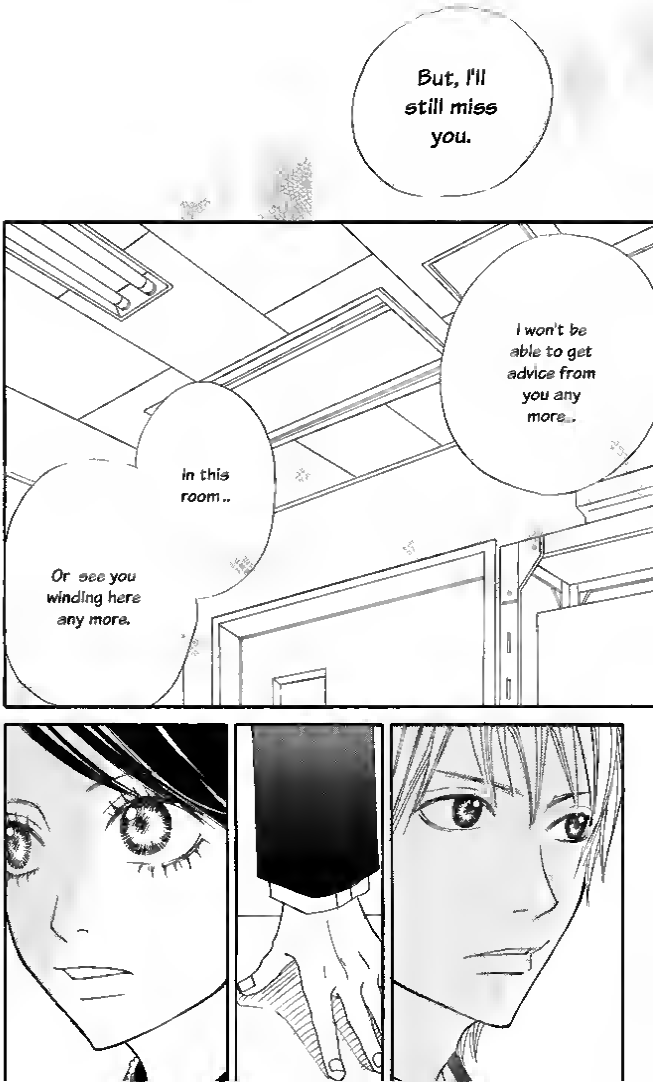



Everyone's waiting down-stairs...
What's wrong?


ガラ
Takaye.



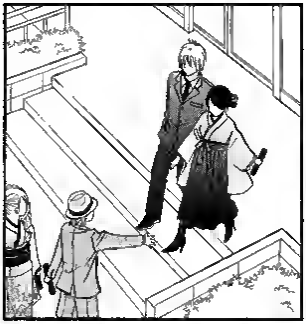
I won't be able to see you any more.
Yeah...
Soon we'll all go our separate ways...
We can see each other any time.
.....
Ahaha, of course.
It's not like we'll never meet again, right?

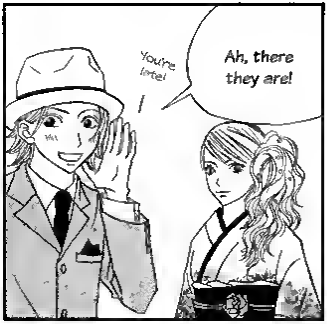

But, I'll still miss you.
I won't be able to get advice from you any more..
in this room..
Or see you winding here any more.

.....
Eh...?
I want to be with you too, Takaya.
Together, as closely as possible.
I said it, didn't I?
We can see each other any time.

I'm sure our roads from here on...

Will have even more challenges than what we've faced so far.





If I ever feel like I can't go on...

I'll think back to these days.

It begins now.
Our road...
Goes on and on.
(To be continued)

収録作品メモ――――――――

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To BE…①

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